The National Investigation Agency Act, 2008, has been enacted after debate and discussion in the Parliament, and with due regard to the entries in the Lists in the 7th Schedule of the Constitution. Following this enactment, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been constituted for investigation and prosecution of cases of offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States and Acts enacted to implement international treaties, agreements and conventions, falling under the Acts/offences listed in the Schedule to the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008. The Agency will operate in a concurrent jurisdiction framework and take up selected cases. Hence, there should be no functional or jurisdictional problems.

Possibility of biological and chemical attacks by terrorists

†300. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has paid attention to the possibility of biological and chemical attacks by terrorists;

(b) whether the ex-Minister of Home Affairs had also cautioned the security forces against biological and chemical attacks;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to impart training to the security forces and to provide them the required resources; and

(d) whether the required provision for immediate dispatch of security forces to the affected spot has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The Government is alive to the possibility of biological and chemical attacks by terrorists. In order to effectively respond to any such crises or disasters, Standard Operating Procedures have been formulated. In addition, the National Disaster Management Authority has also issued guidelines for management of such disasters. Four Battalions of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have also been specifically trained to deal with such crises and their locations are so dispersed as to enable quick movement to the sites of any disaster/crises.

NGOs receiving foreign funds

301. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Non-Governmental Organisations are working in the country and the benefits felt in the country;

(b) the number of NGOs used to receive financial assistance from Government and the amount so far disbursed;

(c) what is the study of Government on the role of NGOs in various social, health, labour and economic sector;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.